

the people and by the people. Allow us to vote on meaningful legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act.

#### RECOGNIZING AN UNSUNG HERO

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an everyday hero from southern Illinois today—U.S. mail carrier Don Fix, who has worked his route in Belleville, Illinois, for over 20 years.

In May, Don felt something was wrong when he noticed mail piled high at a home in Swansea. Don knew both residents were elderly and had difficulty getting around, so he checked around to the back door and called out their names. He heard Mr. David Nelson yell back that he and his wife had fallen. Don immediately called the paramedics, who arrived on the scene and took the couple to the hospital.

I honor Don Fix's quick and caring action as he is more than just a neighborhood mailman. Don delivers more than just the mail to the residents he cares about—he also delivers compassion.

#### BRING GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION TO HOUSE FLOOR FOR A VOTE

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, in Connecticut, we know all too well the devastation caused by gun violence. We will never stop mourning the lives of the 26 people who were ripped from us by the horrific shootings in Newtown, but just as tragic are the deaths that don't make national headlines.

Mr. Speaker, we have a serious problem with gun violence in this country from which no person, no community is protected. This year alone, in the capital city of Hartford, gun violence has claimed 19 lives. Yet, today, this House is scheduled to adjourn for the next 5 weeks, refusing to bring this urgent public health matter to the House floor, refusing to address gun violence, which is hurting America.

I have joined with colleagues from across the aisle to propose a bipartisan bill to expand background checks to all commercial gun sales—legislation that, if enacted, would have prevented several of the most recent mass shootings.

I urge the leadership of this House to spend August thinking about the 30,000 Americans we lose each year to gun violence and to bring this urgent matter to the full House for a vote when we reconvene in September.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE SOLDIER ACT

(Mr. NUGENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a simple solution to a straightforward problem.

Eleven years after retiring from the military, one of my constituents received a bill for \$1,500 for an alleged overpayment by the Department of Defense. This is more than a decade later, and the first she is hearing about it is in a letter, demanding payment. Moreover, the servicemember is expected to track down and find whatever receipts or documents may be relevant from 11 years ago.

This isn't an isolated case. This is happening to veterans across this Nation. Often, these bills are the result of DOD accounting or system errors. Certainly, if there were an error, whether it be the fault of the servicemember or of the DOD, steps should be taken to remedy that; but the government should not wait a decade before sending the first letter.

I am introducing a bill today that would place a statute of limitations on DOD's authority to initiate the collection process. This does not prevent the DOD from collecting debts; it simply says it must do it in a timely fashion. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the SOLDIER Act.

#### BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO GROW U.S. ECONOMY

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, when we return from our recess, we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Ex-Im has helped Nebraska businesses grow and export U.S.-made products overseas. In fact, last year, my district exported over \$60 million of Nebraska manufactured goods all over the world. Growing U.S. exports mean growing jobs at home.

Secondly, we need to come together and pass a long-term transportation bill. According to a recent report, nearly a quarter of Nebraska's bridges are structurally unsound. Beyond safety, investments in infrastructure can create immediate jobs and long-term economic growth.

Lastly, we need to pass a responsible, comprehensive immigration reform bill. This would pull hard-working people out of the shadows, work to attract the best, talented people across the globe, and make our businesses more competitive in the world economy.

Upon our return, Mr. Speaker, let's commit ourselves to bipartisan solutions to these issues.

#### DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I stand here profoundly disappointed that the House will leave town today without taking a vote on my legislation to defund Planned Parenthood.

Over the past 2 weeks, we have all seen the gruesome videos showing the heartless depravity of this organization. We have issued statements; we have made passionate floor speeches; and we have pledged action. Now our constituents would like to know when we are going to follow through on that promise.

Today, I am reminded of the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral obligation to defund Planned Parenthood, and we must do it now—not when politicians and pundits think it is most politically expedient.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Our Nation took an important step forward 50 years ago when, on August 6, 1965, President Johnson signed into law this landmark legislation. It was a moment that brave men and women, like our colleague JOHN LEWIS, marched for and were willing to die for as they dared to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

Unfortunately, 2 years ago, the Supreme Court struck down section 4, and preclearance and Federal protections for vulnerable communities went away. When the Supreme Court struck down section 4, it did not say that protections were not needed. Rather, it issued a challenge to us here in this House to come up with a modern day formula. I see that as a challenge for all of us in this great House—to come up with a modern day formula to provide protections for vulnerable communities.

On this 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act, let us answer this call to action. It is a call worthy of all of our attention. On this recess, let us remark about how wonderful it was that we all came together on March 7, 1965, in order to do what was right. I ask all of you to please consider restoring the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is important for all Americans.

□ 1230

#### MOTORCYCLES MEAN FREEDOM

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming Sturgis motorcycle rally, which will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Since the rally's inception in 1938, Sturgis has grown from a single race to

a weeklong event attended by hundreds of thousands from across the United States and, indeed, around the globe.

Each year more and more riders are using their motorcycles to go to the store, go to work, or just go for a ride.

This growing popularity is good for our Nation. Motorcyclists ease road congestion, reduce overall fuel consumption, and decrease wear and tear on our Nation's infrastructure.

As a cochairman of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus, I offer my best wishes to the attendees of this year's event. Here is to good weather and safe travels while celebrating the freedom to ride.

#### BANGLADESH

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss and raise the dire situation of religious minorities in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a country in turmoil. There are many concerns about the stability of the country, particularly since flawed elections were held last year and the political violence that has ensued.

I am particularly concerned over issues of religious freedom and, specifically, attacks against the minority Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, and others in Bangladesh.

All too often perpetrators of crimes against minorities go unpunished. It is up to the Government of Bangladesh to take action to stop those who incite and commit violence and to protect the rights of these minorities.

I am introducing a resolution today calling on the Government of Bangladesh to protect human rights of all its citizens, particularly its vulnerable minorities, strengthen democratic institutions and rule of law, and prevent the growth of extremist groups.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution to help protect the religious freedoms of all people in Bangladesh.

#### MILITARY CHAPLAINS

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as did my colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, to note that today marks the 240th birthday of the military Chaplain Corps, which was originally founded by the Continental Congress.

I stand today to honor the men and women who serve the spiritual needs of those in uniform. The military chaplains who serve and have served bravely go with their fellow soldiers into combat theaters not to fight, but to fill the role of pastor, counselor, and listener for our armed services.

Military chaplains are held in especially high regard within my own of-

fice, with Arkansas National Guard Captain David Wittee serving as an Army chaplain in addition to serving as my military affairs liaison and a field representative in the Fourth District of Arkansas.

I want to thank Captain Wittee and all military chaplains, both current and past, for their service to their fellow soldiers and for their service to our Nation.

#### RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this Confederate flag, which is a symbol of systemic oppression and racial subjugation, was recently lowered in the State of South Carolina.

But this same flag, which symbolizes so many inequities in our country, is still flying high in a figurative sense over our country.

When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act, it signaled that African American voting rights would no longer be protected.

Pretending that the legacy of poll taxes, literacy tests, and blatant discrimination was no longer taking place, the Supreme Court symbolically raised this flag when it gutted the Voting Rights Act.

Now that this flag has come down from the halls of South Carolina, it is time that we lower this flag from its perch over the voting rights of African Americans by passing the legislation in the U.S. Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act.

#### MORE SECRETS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the IRS targeted, intimidated, and harassed many Americans because of their political philosophy. The people are still waiting for answers about why their government is engaged in this Soviet-style behavior.

First, 2 years of emails were lost. Now we learn that the IRS purposely used an internal messaging system—an office communication server—on the sly. They opted not to archive these messages and kept them secret from the eyes of the citizens and Congress. In one email Lois Lerner apparently was told the messaging system was not archived. Her response? “Perfect.”

So we will never know what was in those messages that were intentionally scrubbed.

There is a pattern here.

The Secretary of State was conducting official business on her own untraceable secret email server, and the taxman used its own “go dark sys-

tem” to evade transparency. It is just another day with the “most transparent administration in history.”

Mr. Speaker, the public has a right to know and get answers to all these scandals. After years of stonewalling, it is painfully obvious that this administration will not investigate this administration.

And that is just the way it is.

#### MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law, he proclaimed that:

“No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years. No longer will young families see their own incomes and their own hopes eaten away simply because they are carrying out their deep moral obligations to their parents.”

We need to continue to keep these promises by protecting and expanding Medicare and Medicaid. Together, these two programs provide health coverage for our Nation's seniors, people with disabilities, and moms and families. We must ensure that these programs are here for now and for future generations.

#### EXECUTIVE REGULATORY OVERREACH

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, before my time in Congress, if someone had told me that I would spend 90 percent of my time fighting executive regulatory overreach, nobody would have believed me, but it is the truth.

In the past 7 months, I have found out how out of control the overreach of this administration truly is. With rules such as the Waters of the United States and the Clean Power Plan from EPA, this administration continues to trample on the rights of our citizens and States while hurting our economy along the way.

That is why I was pleased to cosponsor and vote for the REINS Act. This important legislation requires Congress to have 70 legislative days to review any rules with an economic impact over \$100 million and ensures Congress has oversight before any major rule goes to the President for a signature.

By allowing Congress to review these rules, we can restore accountability and the power of legislating to the legislative branch.